

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2492

JOINT EMBASSY/MAAG MSG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (RYAN, LEO)

SUBJECT: CODEL RYAN

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SUMMARY: CODEL RYAN RECEIVED BRIEFINGS FROM THE
AMBASSADOR, THE MAAG AND THE DANISH MILITARY AND FOREIGN
MINISTRY OFFICIALS. THE THRUST OF CONGRESSMAN
RYAN'S QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOCUSED ON THE CONTRAST
BETWEEN
U.S. DEFENSE EXPENDITURES FOR NATO AND THOSE OF THE
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EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE. EMPHASIZING THAT HE

WAS SPEAKING PERSONALLY, RYAN SAID HE BELIEVED THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WAS INCREASINGLY INTOLERANT OF THE MUCH LARGER AMOUNTS SPENT BY THE U.S. THERE IS INCREASING PRESSURE IN THE U.S. TO REDUCE SUBSTANTIALLY THE U.S. TROOP PRESENCE IN EUROPE. THE CONGRESSMAN ALSO CALLED FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY NATO OF SPAIN'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HIS VISIT TO DENMARK AUGUST 22-25, CONGRESSMAN RYAN MET WITH THE FOLLOWING DANISH OFFICIALS: LTG JORGENSEN, CHIEF OF STAFF, DANISH DEFENSE COMMAND; RADM RADHOLM, CHIEF, MATERIAL STAFF; AND MG LIND, CHIEF, DANISH OPERATIONS STAFF. ON AUGUST 25, RYAN HAD A LONG AND FRANK DISCUSSION WITH THE ACTING CHIEF OF THE MFA'S NATO OFFICE, J. ABRAHAMSEN.

2. BOTH MAAG DENMARK AND THE DANISH MILITARY BRIEFED CONGRESSMAN RYAN ON THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF DENMARK AND THE ORGANIZATION AND SITUATION OF THE DANISH ARMED FORCES. MAAG DISCUSSED ITS MISSION AND OPERATIONS AND INTERFACE WITH THE DANISH MILITARY. THE DANISH DEFENSE STAFF DISCUSSED FOREIGN MATERIAL PROCUREMENT AND ASKED THAT MODERN U.S. EQUIPMENT CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR DENMARK TO BUY. SPECIFICALLY, THE DANES URGED THAT THEY BE ABLE TO BUY THE U.S. HARPOON SURFACE-TO-SURFACE MISSILE SYSTEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE TIME SENSITIVITY OF THE BUDGETING PROCESS HERE.

3. RYAN, IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH AMERICANS AND DANES, PROJECTED POSSIBLE DEPARTURE FROM THE ALLIANCE OF SOME MEMBERS IN THE SOUTHERN TIER. THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONS OF NATO AS WELL AS THE ORGANIZATION ITSELF MUST PLAN TO TAKE ACTION NOW TO OFFSET THESE EVENTUALITIES.

4. AN IMPORTANT WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS COMPENSATION AND APPROPRIATE TO ITS CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE IS TO BRING SPAIN INTO NATO. THIS LONG-TERM
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GOAL SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY AN IMMEDIATE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE ALLIANCE OF SPAIN'S VALUE TO NATO. IF SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT IN FAVOR OF SPAIN WERE MADE NOW, IT WOULD ENCOURAGE THOSE IN THAT COUNTRY WHO ARE WORKING FOR BROADER DEMOCRACY.

5. ACCORDING TO RYAN, IF THE EUROPEANS, INDIVIDUALLY OR COLLECTIVELY, FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE TO

NATO, THE AMERICANS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY RE-ANALYZE THE PRIORITIES OF THEIR FOREIGN COMMITMENTS. THE IMPORTANCE OF OTHER AREAS OF THE WORLD TO THE U.S. WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE. RYAN NOTED, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT HIS CONSTITUENCY IN CALIFORNIA WAS CLOSER TO JAPAN THAN TO COPENHAGEN (THIS REMARK APPEARED TO HAVE A VISIBLE EFFECT ON THE DANES.)

6. ABRAHAMSEN'S REACTION WAS PROBABLY CHARACTERISTIC OF GENERAL DANISH VIEWS. HE SAID THAT HE GOVERNMENT APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR RYAN'S OPINIONS AND, OF COURSE, THAT DANES AND AMERICANS SHARE MANY PERCEPTIONS. THERE MAY BE A BASIC DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, OVER WHETHER NATO SHOULD BE A MILITARY ALLIANCE CEMENTED ONLY BY COMMON DISLIKE AND FEAR OF COMMUNISM OR WHETHER IT SHOULD BE AN ALLIANCE OF FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACIES. ABRAHAMSEN DOUBTED THAT ANY GESTURE MADE TO SPAIN NOW WOULD HAVE MUCH EFFECT ON FUTURE EVENTS THERE. HE STRESSED THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF DENMARK'S SUPPORTING A NEW MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF SPAIN UNTIL AFTER FRANCO'S PASSING. CROWE

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